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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
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Agenda item 3

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Fiji*, Ghana* and Philippines: draft resolution

Violence against women migrant workers

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Bearing in mind the Charter of the United Nations, which reaffirms faith in human rights and fundamental freedoms, in the dignity and worth of the human person, and in the equal rights of women and men,

Reaffirming the principles set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1/ and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 2/

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 47/96 of 16 December 1992, 48/110 of 20 December 1993, 49/165 of 23 December 1994 and 50/168 of 22 December 1995 and Commission on the Status of Women resolutions 38/7 of 18 March 1994 3/ and

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* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

1/ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

2/ General Assembly resolution 34/180.

3/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 7 (E/1994/27), chap. I, sect. C.

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39/7 of 31 March 1995, 4/ as well as the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, 5/

Welcoming the conclusions and recommendations made by recent international conferences, including the World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna in June 1993, the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo in September 1994, the World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen in March 1995 and the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in September 1995, on the promotion and protection of the rights and fundamental freedoms of women, in particular women migrant workers,

Noting the large numbers of women from developing countries and from some countries with economies in transition who continue to venture forth to more affluent countries in search of a living for themselves and their families as a consequence of poverty, unemployment and other socio-economic conditions,

Recognizing that it is the duty of sending countries to protect and promote the interests of their citizens who seek or receive employment in other countries, to provide them with appropriate training/education and to apprise them of their rights and obligations in the countries of employment,

Aware of the moral obligation of receiving or host countries to ensure the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons within their boundaries, including migrant workers, who are doubly vulnerable because of their gender and their being foreigners,

Noting the measures adopted by some receiving States to alleviate the plight of women migrant workers residing within their areas of jurisdiction,

Noting with concern, however, the continuing reports of grave abuses and acts of violence committed against women migrant workers by some of their employers in some host countries,

Stressing that acts of violence directed against women impair or nullify women's enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

1. Reiterates its call for States Members of the United Nations to adopt measures for the effective implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, including their application to women migrant workers;

2. Invites States concerned, specifically those sending and receiving women migrant workers, to conduct regular consultations for the purpose of identifying problem areas in promoting and protecting the rights of women migrant workers and ensuring health, legal and social services for them, adopting specific measures to address these problems, setting up, as appropriate, linguistically and culturally accessible services and mechanisms to

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4/ Ibid., 1995, Supplement No. 6 (E/1995/26), chap. I, sect. C.

5/ General Assembly resolution 48/104.

implement those measures and, in general, creating conditions that foster greater harmony and tolerance between women migrant workers and the rest of society in which they reside;

3. Encourages States Members of the United Nations, particularly those from which women migrant workers originate and those that play host to them, to ensure the protection of the rights and fundamental freedoms of women migrant workers as defined by international conventions and agreements and by the outcome of recent international conferences;

4. Calls upon States Members to adopt and/or implement and periodically review and analyse legislation to ensure its effectiveness in eliminating violence against women, including women migrant workers, emphasizing the prevention of violence and the prosecution of offenders, to take measures for the protection of women, particularly women migrant workers, who are subjected to violence, and to ensure access to just and effective remedies, including compensation and indemnification and healing of victims, and rehabilitation of perpetrators;

5. Encourages Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; 6/

6. Calls upon States to explore the possibility of adopting measures to prevent the victimization of women migrant workers by sexual traffickers and to penalize those traffickers, including the ratification of the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others; 7/

7. Calls for the organization/establishment of a mechanism under the aegis of the Centre for Human Rights/United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in coordination with the Division for the Advancement of Women, to be funded from the existing funds of relevant United Nations bodies and from voluntary contributions by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, which would have the following functions, among others:

(a) Conduct continuing studies on the situation of migrant workers on a global and/or regional basis;

(b) Disseminate information on migrant worker issues;

(c) Provide training and information to migrant workers to enable them to assert their rights and fundamental freedoms;

(d) Make recommendations on measures to address, from cross-sectoral, interregional, regional and subregional perspectives, the issues affecting migrant workers, in particular women migrant workers;

6/ General Assembly resolution 45/158.

7/ General Assembly resolution 317 (IV).

(e) Serve as a forum for the exchange of views, expertise and the like on migrant workers;

(f) Organize seminars, consultations and conferences on issues affecting migrant workers, particularly women migrant workers;

8. Reiterates its recommendation to the Commission on Human Rights to make the protection and promotion of the rights of women migrant workers one of its priority concerns, and for the Special Rapporteur of the Commission to continue to include among the urgent issues pertaining to her mandate the violence perpetrated against women migrant workers;

9. Welcomes the scheduled holding from 27 to 30 May 1996 of the United Nations Expert Group meeting on the issue of violence against women migrant workers, and requests that the Group's report be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session, through the Economic and Social Council, and that recommendations for concrete indicators to determine the situation of women migrant workers in sending and receiving countries be included in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session, together with the reports of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and of relevant United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

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FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Costa Rica*: draft resolution

Attainment of strategic objectives and action to be taken in critical areas: women and the media

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, adopted in 1993, 1/

Referring to the Toronto Platform for Action 2/ concerning the access of women journalists to expression and decision-making,

1. Reaffirms the provisions of the Platform for Action 3/ adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, in particular paragraphs 131 and 135 concerning religious intolerance, extremist violence and terrorism suffered by women because of their place in society and their sex;

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are also members of the Group of 77 and China.

1/ General Assembly resolution 48/104.

2/ Adopted by the International Symposium of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the topic "Women and media: Access to expression and decision-making", held at Toronto, Canada, from 28 February to 3 March 1995.

3/ Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (A/CONF.177/20), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II).

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2. Also reaffirms paragraph 145 (f) of the Platform for Action, which states that Governments and international and regional organizations should call upon the international community to condemn and act against all forms and manifestations of terrorism, emphasizing the prevention of violence against women in general and women journalists in particular who, because of their profession, are an easy and preferred target of acts of violence and intolerance and terrorist attacks;

3. Condemns the murders and acts of violence and terrorism committed against women journalists, particularly in Algeria, because of their sex and their profession;

4. Pays a warm tribute to all the women who continue, with courage, sacrifice and determination, to make their contribution, through the media, to improving the status of women;

5. Appeals to the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the international community to join their efforts in order to intensify, in accordance with the Platform for Action, efforts to combat terrorism and all forms of intolerance and violence, which are a major obstacle to achieving the objectives of equality, development and peace proclaimed in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. 4/

4/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15 to 26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. F.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

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FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Costa Rica*: revised draft resolution

Attainment of strategic objectives and action to be taken in critical areas: women and the media

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, adopted in 1993, 1/

Referring to the Toronto Platform for Action 2/ concerning the access of women journalists to expression and decision-making,

1. Reaffirms the provisions of the Platform for Action 3/ adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, in particular paragraphs 131 and 135 on violations of the human rights of women and on religious intolerance, extremist

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are also members of the Group of 77 and China.

1/ General Assembly resolution 48/104.

2/ Adopted by the International Symposium of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the topic "Women and media: Access to expression and decision-making", held at Toronto, Canada, from 28 February to 3 March 1995.

3/ Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (A/CONF.177/20), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

violence and terrorism suffered by women because of their place in society and their sex;

2. Also reaffirms paragraph 145 (f) of the Platform for Action, which calls upon the international community to condemn and combat all forms and manifestations of terrorism;

3. Acknowledges that journalists, in particular women journalists, because of their profession and their gender, are an easy and favourite target for violent acts, intolerance and terrorist attacks;

4. Condemns the murders and acts of violence and terrorism committed against women journalists, particularly in Algeria, because of their sex and their profession;

5. Pays a warm tribute to all the women who continue, with courage, sacrifice and determination, to make their contribution, through the media, to improving the status of women;

6. Appeals to the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the international community to join their efforts in order to intensify, in accordance with the Platform for Action, efforts to combat terrorism and all forms of intolerance and violence and all violations of the human rights of women, which are a major obstacle to achieving the objectives of equality, development and peace proclaimed in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. 4/

4/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15 to 26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. F.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

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FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Costa Rica*: draft resolution

Palestinian women

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women, 1/

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 2/ in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, and the Beijing Platform for Action 3/ adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women,

Recalling also its resolution 1995/30 of 25 July 1995 and other relevant United Nations resolutions,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

1/ E/CN.6/1996/8.

2/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

3/ General Assembly resolution 48/104.

Recalling the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women 4/ as it concerns the protection for civilian populations,

Welcoming the signing by the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Government of Israel of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, 5/ in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993, as well as all subsequent agreements reached between the two parties,

Concerned about the continuing difficult situation of Palestinian women in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and about the severe consequences of continuous Israeli illegal settlements activities, as well as the harsh economic conditions and other consequences for the situation of Palestine women and their families, resulting from the frequent closure and isolation of the occupied territory,

1. Recognizes the gradual, positive changes that are taking place as a result of the implementation of the agreements between the two parties;

2. Reaffirms that the Israeli occupation continues to constitute a major obstacle to the advancement and self-reliance of Palestinian women and their integration in the development planning of their society;

3. Demands that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 6/ the Hague Conventions and the Geneva Convention relative to the protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, 7/ in order to protect the rights of Palestinian women and their families;

4. Calls upon Israel to facilitate the return of all refugee and displaced Palestinian women and children to their homes and properties in the occupied Palestinian territory, in compliance with relevant United Nations resolutions;

5. Urges Member States, international financial organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and other relevant institutions to intensify their efforts to provide financial and technical assistance to Palestinian women for the creation of projects responding to their needs, especially during the transitional period;

6. Requests the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor and take action on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies

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4/ Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (A/CONF.177/20), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

5/ A/48/486-S/26560, annex.

6/ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

7/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973, p. 287.

for the Advancement of Women, 2/ in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, and the Beijing Platform for Action; 3/

7. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation and to assist Palestinian women by all available means, and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-first session a report on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

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FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Costa Rica*: draft resolution

Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical area of concern, poverty

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 43/195 of 20 December 1988, 44/212 of 22 December 1989, 45/213 of 21 December 1990, 46/141 of 17 December 1991, 47/197 of 22 December 1992, 48/184 of 21 December 1993 and 49/110 of 19 December 1994 related to international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/107 of 20 December 1995 on the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and proclamation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty,

Reaffirming the importance of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995, as well as all the United Nations major conferences and summits organized since 1990, in particular the World Summit for Children, held in New York in September 1990, and the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen in March 1995,

Reaffirming, General Assembly resolution 50/203 of 22 December 1995 on the follow-up of the Fourth World Conference on Women,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on poverty, 1/

Recognizing that the eradication of poverty requires the full and equal participation of women, in particular in the formulation and implementation of policies that affect them, so as to enable them to become genuine partners in development,

Emphasizing that empowering women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty, since women constitute the majority of people living in poverty, and since they contribute to the economy and to combating poverty through their work at home, in the community and in the workplace,

Recognizing that more women than men live in absolute poverty and the imbalance is on the increase, resulting in their limited access to income, resources, education, health care, nutrition, shelter and safe water in all developing countries, in particular African countries and the least developed countries,

Bearing in mind that the increasing number of women living in poverty in developing countries, especially in the rural areas and urban slums, requires the urgent action of the international community and the adoption of concrete actions and measures at the national and regional levels towards the eradication of poverty within the framework of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 2/ adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,

Stressing the necessity of promoting and implementing policies to create a supportive international economic environment, through, inter alia, alleviation of the external debt burden and the negative impact of structural adjustment programmes, through mobilization and/or the provision of new and additional financial resources that are both adequate and predictable, and by ensuring equitable terms of trade and increased access of women in developing countries to markets, productive investments and technologies,

1. Recognizes the central role that women play in the eradication of poverty, and recommends their full and equal participation in the formulation and implementation of policies that affect them so as to enable them to become genuine partners in development;

2. Recognizes also that the eradication of poverty is both a complex and a multidimensional problem and fundamental to reinforcing equality, peace and development;

3. Urges all Governments, the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and civil society to implement the Platform for Action in its entirety;

1/ E/CN.6/1996/CRP.3.

2/ Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (A/CONF.177/20 and Add.1), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

4. Recommends that in order to attain the goals of eradicating the feminization of poverty as set out in the Platform for Action, 3/ the following actions, inter alia, be undertaken:

(a) Development and implementation of education, training and retraining policies for women and girls;

(b) Promotion and protection of women's rights to full and equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance and to ownership of land and other property, credit, natural resources and appropriate technologies;

(c) Promotion of the participation of women at all levels of decision-making;

(d) Mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the design of policies and programmes for the eradication of poverty;

(e) Development of national strategies for promoting employment and self-employment, including entrepreneurial and organizational skills in order to generate income for women;

(f) Adoption of policies to ensure that all women have adequate economic and social protection during unemployment, ill health, maternity, child-bearing, widowhood, disability and old age;

(g) Development of gender-based methodologies and conducting of research to address the contribution of women to the economy, the feminization of poverty and the economic and social impact of debt and structural adjustment programmes in all developing countries, in particular African countries and the least developed countries;

(h) Reduction, as appropriate, of excessive military expenditures and investments for arms production and acquisition, consistent with national security requirements, in order to increase resources for social and economic development;

5. Calls for the urgent implementation of the outcome of all other major United Nations conferences and summits related to the eradication of poverty;

6. Calls upon States to undertake commitments 2 and 5 of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, 4/ and calls upon all relevant international actors to implement promptly the actions for the eradication of poverty, as contained in the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development; 5/

3/ Ibid., chap. I, resolution 1, annex II, chap. IV, sect. A.

4/ Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (A/CONF.166/9), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

5/ Ibid., chap. I, resolution 1, annex II, chap. II.

7. Stresses that the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, should play a central role in enhancing financial and technical support and assistance for developing countries, particularly African countries and the least developed countries, in their efforts to achieve the objectives set forth in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, particularly the goal of the eradication of the feminization of poverty;

8. Stresses the importance of using all available funding sources and mechanisms, with a view to contributing towards the goal of poverty eradication and targeting women living in poverty;

9. Invites all countries, the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, other relevant international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and all other sectors to contribute to the implementation of programmes aimed at eradicating poverty;

10. Recommends that the Economic and Social Council, when considering the theme "Coordination of the United Nations system activities for poverty eradication" at its substantive session for 1996, ensure that the relevant organs of the United Nations system take fully into account the gender perspective in their activities for the eradication of poverty, and requests the Council to recommend to the General Assembly that the gender dimension of poverty be incorporated into the plan of action of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution in the framework of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty;

12. Also requests the Secretary-General to keep in mind the poverty dimension in the implementation and review of reports on all other critical areas of concern set out in the Platform for Action, taking into consideration the many links between the eradication of poverty and the other critical areas of concern.

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ELABORATION OF A DRAFT OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairperson of the Open-ended Working Group on the Elaboration of a Draft Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, on the basis of informal consultations

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action 1/ and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 2/ called on Governments to support the process to elaborate a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Welcoming the process initiated by the in-session Open-ended Working Group on the Elaboration of a Draft Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to invite Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to submit additional views on an optional protocol to the Convention, taking into account the elements contained in suggestion No. 7, adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of

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1/ Report of the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 14-25 June 1993 (A/CONF.157/24 (Part I)), chap. III.

2/ Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (A/CONF.177/20 and Add.1), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

Discrimination against Women at its fourteenth session, 3/ as well as the deliberations of the Working Group;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-first session a comprehensive report, including a synthesis of the views requested in paragraph 1 above;

3. Also requests the Secretary-General to provide to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-first session a comparative summary of existing communications and inquiry procedures and practices under international human rights instruments and under the Charter of the United Nations;

4. Recommends that the Economic and Social Council adopt the draft decision contained in the annex to the present resolution.

Annex

RENEWAL OF THE MANDATE OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON THE ELABORATION OF A DRAFT OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

The Economic and Social Council decides:

(a) To renew the mandate of the in-session Open-ended Working Group on the Elaboration of a Draft Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, so that it may continue its work pursuant to Council resolution 1995/29 of 24 July 1995;

(b) To authorize, within existing United Nations resources, the Working Group to meet in parallel with the Commission at its forty-first session;

(c) To invite a representative of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to attend this meeting as a resource person.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/50/38), chap. I, sect. B.

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FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Action to be taken by the Commission:

Methods of work for dealing with the implementation of the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women

The Commission on the Status of Women adopts the following conclusions regarding its methods of work:

The Commission considers that its effectiveness and efficiency could be improved through innovative methods of work, including inviting experts to participate in the substantive debate on selected issues as part of the regular work of the Commission.

These innovative methods must be understood as a process that includes not only the sessions of the Commission but also the organization of work. Broad-based participation in the preparatory process for each session of the Commission must be encouraged. The practice of periodically convening meetings of the Bureau of the Commission open to the participation of all interested States should be encouraged and consolidated.

The documentation prepared for each item of debate should be available in all official languages in sufficient time to ensure active and wide participation in discussions.

The practice of inviting experts is expected to deal effectively with the critical areas established in the Beijing Platform for Action and to contribute to the effective follow-up of the Conference. The experts should be chosen from the fields of study addressed under the critical areas of concern, taking into

account equitable geographical distribution and the involvement of non-governmental organizations.

Panels of experts should be formed. They should include experts appointed by the Secretary-General, experts working within the United Nations system, and experts [from] Governments and from civil society.

The selection of experts, the composition of the panels, and the allocation of time to dialogues should be decided inter-sessionally by the Bureau of the Commission, taking into consideration the proposals of the United Nations Secretariat. The Secretariat should prepare a list of candidates for the panels based on suggestions from States and civil society. The Bureau should convene meetings open to the participation of all interested States to ensure a broad base of participation.

Meetings should be allotted to dialogue with organizations within the United Nations system and civil society and among governmental delegations. Sufficient time should be devoted to intergovernmental dialogue.

The results of the dialogues [should][could] be reflected in concise, action-oriented agreed conclusions to be transmitted to the Economic and Social Council by a Commission decision. They should also contain policy recommendations and identify coordination issues to be dealt with by the Council.

The Commission, in order to strengthen its capacity to act as a catalyst in support of mainstreaming a gender perspective in the work of the United Nations system, to identify emerging issues, trends and new approaches affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men, and to review and appraise progress achieved and problems encountered in implementation of critical areas of concern in the Platform for Action:

(a) Should strengthen its cooperation with other relevant bodies of the United Nations system, including other functional commissions and their respective secretariats;

(b) [Should monitor progress on the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women];

(c) Should make relevant documents available, through the Economic and Social Council, to other functional commissions and relevant United Nations expert bodies and mechanisms in order to assist in the integration of a gender perspective in their work;

(d) Bearing in mind the role of the Economic and Social Council in overall coordination, notes that increased dialogue between the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council, the chairpersons and secretariats, as appropriate, of the other functional commissions, other subsidiary and related bodies and the relevant executive boards would assist in identifying issues that could be addressed under the agenda item on emerging issues and trends;

(e) Encourages the voluntary presentation of national information and suggests that such information should address the priority issues identified by the Commission on the Status of Women in its programme of work, bearing in mind that Governments are to develop comprehensive implementation strategies or national plans of action, including time-bound targets and benchmarks for monitoring, in order to implement the Platform for Action fully;

(f) [Notes further that the reports submitted by States to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and other human rights treaty bodies, as well as the concluding comments and recommendations on the reports of States parties, are of direct relevance to the Commission's task of reviewing and appraising the implementation of the Platform for Action and its task of identifying emerging trends and approaches];

(g) [Encourages States to submit national reports for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Platform for Action in the year 2000].

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FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women

The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Welcoming the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of its Platform for Action,

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolutions 11 (II) of 21 June 1946 and 48 (IV) of 29 March 1947, by which the Council established the Commission on the Status of Women and defined its terms of reference, and 1987/22 of 26 May 1987, by which the Council expanded the mandate of the Commission,

Taking into account agreed conclusions 1995/1, approved by the Council on 28 July 1995, 1/ as well as General Assembly resolution 50/203 of 22 December 1995, on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, in which the Assembly invited the Economic and Social Council to review and strengthen the mandate of the Commission,

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1/ A/50/3, chap. III, para. 22.

I

Framework for the functioning of the Commission

Recalling that the Assembly, in resolution 50/203, decided that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with their respective mandates and with Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and other relevant resolutions, should constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that would play the primary role in the overall policy-making and follow-up, and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Platform for Action, reaffirming the need for a coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the results of major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields,

Convinced that the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women should be undertaken on the basis of an integrated approach to the advancement of women within the framework of a coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the results of major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields, as well as the overall responsibilities of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council,

1. Decides that the Commission on the Status of Women shall have a catalytic role in mainstreaming a gender perspective in policies and programmes;

2. Decides that the inter-agency committee on the advancement and empowerment of women, once established by the Administrative Committee on Coordination, shall inform the Commission and the Economic and Social Council of the progress of its work, for the purpose of system-wide coordination, and that a gender perspective shall also be fully integrated in the work of all thematic task forces established by the Administrative Committee on Coordination;

2 bis. [The United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women have, in accordance with their respective mandates, a specific role to play in the implementation of the strategic objectives of the Platform for Action];

2 ter. [Urges the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to include in its reports to the General Assembly information on the implementation of the strategic objectives of the Platform for Action related to the provisions of the Convention, pursuant to paragraph 36 of General Assembly resolution 50/203];

3. Decides, in view of the traditional importance of non-governmental organizations in the advancement of women, that such organizations should be encouraged to participate in the work of the Commission and in the monitoring and implementation process related to the Conference to the maximum extent possible, and requests the Secretary-General to make appropriate arrangements to ensure full utilization of existing channels of communication with non-governmental organizations in order to facilitate broad-based participation and dissemination of information;

3 bis. [Recognizing the valuable contribution of non-governmental organizations to the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Council and its Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations will decide to review the applications of those non-governmental organizations under Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) as expeditiously as possible and that prior to the forty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Council will decide on the participation of those non-governmental organizations accredited to the Conference in Conference follow-up and in the work of the Commission on the Status of Women, without prejudice to the work of the Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Arrangements for Consultation with Non-Governmental Organizations];

II

Terms of reference

1. Confirms the existing mandate of the Commission on the Status of Women as set out in its resolutions 11 (II) of 21 June 1946, 48 (IV) of 29 March 1947 and 1987/22 of 26 May 1987, bearing in mind that the Platform for Action builds upon the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women;

2. Decides that the Commission on the Status of Women shall assist the Economic and Social Council in monitoring, reviewing and appraising progress achieved and problems encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at all levels, and shall advise the Council thereon;

3. Decides that the Commission on the Status of Women shall continue to ensure support for mainstreaming a gender perspective in United Nations activities and develop further its catalytic role in this regard in other areas;

4. Decides further that the Commission on the Status of Women shall identify issues where United Nations system-wide coordination needs to be improved in order to assist the Council in its coordination function;

5. Decides that the Commission shall identify emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men that require urgent consideration and make substantive recommendations thereon;

6. Decides that the Commission shall maintain and enhance public awareness and support for the implementation of the Platform for Action;

III

Documentation

1. Requests that all United Nations documentation be kept concise, clear, analytical and timely with a focus on relevant issues and in accordance with Council resolution 1987/24 of 26 May 1987 and Council agreed conclusions 1995/1 of 28 July 1995; that reports contain recommendations for action and indicate

the actors; that reports be available in all official languages, in accordance with the rules of the United Nations; and that other methods of reporting, such as oral reports, also be explored;

2. Requests that the relevant reports of the meetings of inter-agency mechanisms established by the Secretary-General be transmitted for information to the Commission to ensure coordination, collaboration and coherence in the implementation of the Platform for Action;

3. Decides that requests for reports of the Secretary-General should be limited to the minimum strictly necessary and that the Secretariat should use information and data already provided by Governments to the maximum extent possible, avoiding duplication of requests to Governments for such information;

4. Decides further that voluntary submission of national information, for example national action plans or national reports by Governments, should be encouraged;

5. Requests that the following reports be prepared under agenda item 3 (Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women),* bearing in mind the need to promote integrated reporting:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the measures taken and the progress achieved in mainstreaming a gender perspective within the United Nations system (annually);

(b) Analytical report of the Secretary-General on the thematic issues before the Commission in accordance with the multi-year work programme, including, as far as possible, progress made in national implementation, based on available existing data and statistics (annually);

(c) Report on emerging issues under agenda item 3 (b),* as appropriate, at the request of the Commission or its Bureau;

(d) Synthesized report on implementation plans of Governments and the United Nations system, based, inter alia, on national action plans and any other sources of information already available in the United Nations system (in 1998);

(e) Mid-term review of the system-wide medium-term plan (in 1998);

(f) Report on the implementation of the Platform for Action, on the basis of national reports, taking into account the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (in 2000);

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* See sect. IV, para. 3 below.

IV

Work programme of the Commission on the Status of Women

1. Adopts a multi-year work programme for a focused and thematic approach, culminating in a quinquennial review and appraisal of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women; the work programme, inter alia, will provide a framework to assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Platform for Action and will be in line with the coordinated follow-up to conferences;

2. Decides that the work of the Commission in relation to the programme of work shall be closely related to the relevant provisions of the Platform for Action, with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of the Platform for Action;

3. Decides that the agenda for the Commission shall consist of the following:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women:

(a) Review of mainstreaming in organizations of the United Nations system;

(b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;

(c) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern.

4. Communications concerning the status of women.

5. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, including the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention.

6. Provisional agenda for the forty-second session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-first session.

4. Decides, in the light of the need for a focused and thematic multi-year work programme on the critical areas of concern and bearing in mind that the critical areas of concern are interrelated and interdependent, on the following calendar:

1997	Education and training of women (Platform for Action, chapter IV.B)
	Women and the economy (Platform for Action, chapter IV.F)
	Women in power and decision-making (Platform for Action, chapter IV.G)
	Women and the environment (Platform for Action, chapter IV.K)
1998	Violence against women (Platform for Action, chapter IV.D)
	Women and armed conflict (Platform for Action, chapter IV.E)
	Human rights of women (Platform for Action, chapter IV.I)
	The girl child (Platform for Action, chapter IV.L)
1999	Women and health (Platform for Action, chapter IV.C)
	Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women (Platform for Action, chapter IV.H)
	Initiation of the comprehensive review and appraisal of the implementation of the Platform for Action
2000	Comprehensive quinquennial review and appraisal of the implementation of the Platform for Action
	Emerging issues

V

Regional [dimension]

Recalling the important role played by regional preparatory conferences in the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women and that plans and programmes of action were adopted that served as essential inputs to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,

1. Recommends that the regional follow-up and monitoring of the regional platforms and programmes of action should be utilized as inputs for the review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

2. Recommends further that the Council [should] consider how best to integrate the inputs of regional commissions into the overall monitoring and follow-up to the Platform for Action.